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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Paul Rowold of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Polson, MT.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

We pray.

You call us, O Lord our God, to respond today to Your saving actions throughout history. In Micah 6, You call us to justice and humility and loving kindness. In Matthew 23, You call us again to justice and mercy and faith. Move within us, encouraging us to boldly live for the sake of others.

Give to our leaders the courage of those who do justice, the humility of those who value faith, the honesty of those who have received mercy, and the joy of those who show love. This is Your call to all true leaders.

Give to our Nation compassionate strength, faithful perseverance, and open ears and eyes and hearts, ready to respond to Your call.

Let Your wisdom guide us and Your hope fill us with new resolve and Your love send us to all who look to us for lasting justice, humble mercy, and bold faith.

You call us, O Lord our God, to respond today to Your saving actions in our lives, our Nation, and Your world. Move within us all, that we may answer Your call.

In Your mighty Name, we pray. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 10, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from Montana.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Montana is recognized.

### THANKING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment to thank Rev. Paul Rowold, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Polson, MT.

The prophet Isaiah wrote:

The Lord has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Thank you, Pastor Paul, for being here to sustain us today and opening our Senate in prayer.

Pastor Paul served Lutheran congregations in several other places in the country—Rockford, IL, and Englewood, CO—prior to his call to Polson, MT, in 1977.

Polson—for those of you who don't know, and I am sure more of you do—is a small community on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana. It sits at the south end of Flathead Lake, one of the largest natural freshwater—actually, to be precise, we have to get our adjectives lined up here—Flathead is the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi and, I might say, near some of the most pristine wilderness on the planet.

Pastor Paul is an expert on the Holy Land, and he has traveled there more than 20 times, both as an archaeologist and as a tour guide. We were just earlier talking about his experience as a tour guide and just how wonderfully warm he and his family have been received as tour guides when they have been in Palestine. It was very warm and encouraging just listening to him describe that.

He is here today with his wife Donna and two of his daughters, Katie and Stephanie, as well as with many of his extended family. They are all enjoying this moment with Pastor Paul, and we welcome all of you here today, too.

So, Paul, thank you for your life of faith, your leadership of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and for your service to the community of Polson, MT, and to many others who I know attend your church.

Thank you very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). The majority leader is recognized.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have not had an opportunity to speak to the distinguished Republican leader about this, but I ask unanimous consent that the vote, rather than starting at 9:45, start at 9:55 a.m. This will still allow those who are attending hearings to get there immediately after casting their vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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